

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT ON BILL NO. **S. 326**

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TO:	The Honorable Glenn McConnell, Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee		
FROM:	Office of State Budget, Budget and Control Board		
ANALYSTS:	Rodney Grizzle, R.J. Stein		
DATE:	May 17, 2007	SBD:	2007355

AUTHOR:	Senator Ford	PRIMARY CODE CITE:	20-1-18
SUBJECT:	Civil Union Equality Act		

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES:

A Cost to the General Fund (See Below)

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON FEDERAL & OTHER FUND EXPENDITURES:

\$0 (No additional expenditures or savings are expected)

BILL SUMMARY:

Senate Bill 326 amends the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, by adding Section 20-1-18 which enacts the "Civil Union Equality Act". This legislation allows individuals of the same sex to form a civil union with the same benefits, protections, rights and responsibilities under the law as marriages.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT:

Judicial Department

The Department indicates this Bill would have a minimal impact on the General Fund of the State, which can be absorbed by the agency at the current level of funding.

Department of Health and Environmental Control

The Bill requires the Office of Vital Statistics to provide civil union licenses and certificate forms to probate judges and clerks of court and to keep a record of all civil unions and dissolutions of civil unions. The Department reports this Bill will cost approximately \$170,000 in one-time reprogramming costs to enable their Web Fee Module to include provisions for a "civil union" and for "dissolution of a civil union." In addition, there would be annual website and records maintenance costs of \$28,000 associated with these two modifications. Therefore, first year costs are estimated at \$198,000. Annual costs thereafter are estimated at \$28,000. The Department estimates revenue retained by the agency at no more than \$3,600 assuming 300 such licenses would be issued annually.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT IMPACT:

None.

SPECIAL NOTES:

None.

Approved by:



Harry Bell
Assistant Director, Office of State Budget